



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS



Public Safety Service

M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

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July 28, 2000

David Miller, P.E.
Brassco Inc.
P.O. Box 46121
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

RE: P0204653
St. Thomas More Junior High School
Baton Rouge, LA

Dear Mr. Miller:

In response to your letters of June 26 and 27, 2000, on the referenced project, please accept the following clarifications concerning sprinkler system check valves and fire department connections/fire hydrant locations.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM CHECK VALVES

As stated in Item No. 2 in a review letter from this office dated May 26, 2000, NFPA 13:4-14.1.1.5 states, "Where there is more than one source of water supply, a check valve shall be installed in each connection." That letter also referenced NFPA 13:2-1.1, which states, "All materials and devices essential to successful system operation shall be listed." As a further reference, please review NFPA 13:A-2-1.1, which states. "Included among items requiring listing are...valves controlling flow of water to sprinklers..."

You have provided two sketches: Proposed Dry Pipe Riser, as originally included with the referenced submittal (sketch #1), and Dry Pipe Riser w/ Additional Check Valve (sketch #2). Sketch #2 indicates the additional listed check valve required for each water supply, pursuant to NFPA 13:4-14.1.1.5 as described above. Please understand that neither this office nor NFPA 13 requires a backflow preventer (or a double backflow preventer) for a sprinkler system. A backflow preventer, if required, is mandated by some other authority having jurisdiction, such as a municipal health code authority (in this case, the Baton Rouge Water Company).

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"Is Yours Working"?? L:\Correspondence\St. Thomas More Jr. High School.wpd

Smoke Detectors Save Lives!!

OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL, CODE ENFORCEMENT, AND BUILDING SAFETY
5150 FLORIDA BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
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This office allows the implementation of a backflow preventer, provided that friction loss is accounted for in the hydraulic calculations. However, backflow preventers are not listed by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. In the U.L. Fire Protection Equipment Directory section titled "Backflow Special Check Valve Devices" (BAEU), the introductory description states that backflow preventers are only "classified", and "the basic standard used to investigate products in this category is UL 1469, "Strength of Body and Hydraulic Pressure Loss Testing of Backflow Special Check Valves".

The section entitled "Check Valves" (HMER) provides information on all listed check valves, which meet the requirements NFPA 13::4-14.1.1.5. Please see the overview descriptions of "classified service" and "listing service", on Pages 474 and 475 of the U.L. Fire Protection Equipment Directory.

I am also enclosing a copy of a response letter from Mr. Dana Haagenen to this office dated May 17, 2000, addressing this same issue. Mr. Haagenen reiterates that check valves must be "listed". As you may be aware, testing and certification for a U.L. "listing" status is much more stringent and involved, than that for a "classified" status. While the number of check valves on Sketch #2 appears redundant, this office only requires one listed check valve for the fire department connection water supply, and one listed check valve for the underground private main. These two listed check valves are the minimum requirements to comply with NFPA 13.

PROPER LOCATIONS OF FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTIONS AND FIRE HYDRANTS

This office initiated the recent policy of having the local fire department concur with the locations of fire department connections and fire hydrants, as a mandate from V.J. Bella. In the past, this office has received several complaints from various fire departments stating that recently completed sprinkler systems were installed with differing locations of fire department connections and fire hydrants. Subsequently, building owners, professionals of record, and sprinkler contractors have had to dig a little deeper in their pockets to remedy these differing conditions. This new policy was created to circumvent wasted construction dollars for relocating recently installed fire department connections and hydrants.

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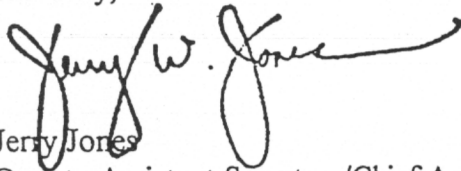
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Please be advised that fire department connections and hydrants must be properly located at the site (or building, as applicable). Once installed in the proper locations, it remains the building owner's responsibility to maintain access to these devices. Proper access includes avoidance of possible obstructions to fire department connections and hydrant access (such as shrubery overgrowth, subsequent fencing, dumpster obstructions, etc.). The required fire department approval of these devices is not based on subsequent obstructions during the life of the building; rather the requirement for fire department approval is related to the initial installation of fire department connections and hydrants.

To comply with this requirement a site plan can be mailed to the local fire department. The local Fire Chief can then draft a simple acknowledgement that he agrees with the proposed locations of the fire department connections and/or hydrants. As an alternative, the Fire Chief can indicate concurrence by handwriting a statement directly on the shop drawing stating that the location and fittings of fire department connections and/or hydrants is acceptable, and providing his name, fire department and date of acknowledgement.

If you should have further questions or need additional clarifications, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,



Jerry Jones

Deputy Assistant Secretary/Chief Architect

JWJ/JCC/jtj

cc: V. J. Bella
Jean Carter
Mark Gates
Clifton Lasseigne

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